The Orthodox Herald

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Volume 56, No. 7 ISSUE 666 NOVEMBER 2007 www.orthodoxherald.homestead.com

THE ENTRY INTO THE TEMPLE OF THE MOST-HOLY VIRGIN MARY

When the Virgin Mary reached the age of three years, Her pious parents prepared to fulfill their promise. They called together their relatives, invited friends the same age as their daughter, dressed Her in Her finest clothes, and accompanied by the people singing hymns, they brought Her to the Temple in Jerusalem, to be consecrated to God. Her friends, and Mary Herself, walked with burning candles in their hands. Led by the chief priest, the priests, while singing hymns, came out of the Temple to meet them.

Joachim and Anna, with reverent prayers, set Mary on the first step of the flight of stairs leading to the Temple. This staircase had fifteen high steps, according to the number of the psalms which the priests chanted upon entering the Temple.

There, three-year-old Mary Herself climbed the high steps without any assistance. At the top the chief priest met and blessed Her, as he always did with all who came to be consecrated to God. Then, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he led Her into the Holy of Holies. This was the most sacred place in the Temple. No one had the right to enter there except him and, he, only once a year. The Holy Spirit enlightened the chief priest with the knowledge that Mary, the chosen young girl, was worthy to enter the most sacred place. She was destined by God to become the Mother of the Son of God, Who would open the way for all people into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Fulfilling their promise, Joachim and Anna returned home, and Mary remained to live at the Temple. There She, with other girls, studied the Law

(Continued on Page 51, Col. 1)

THERE IS A FAST

In the Orthodox Church, the penitential season of preparation for Christmas/The Nativity of Christ always begins on November 15/28, the day after the commemoration of St. Philip. For this reason, it is popularly known as St. Philip's Fast or Philipovka. A simple count of the days between November 15/28 and December 25/January 7 shows that this special period lasts exactly 40 days, the same as the Paschal Lent.

Recently, Orthodox have begun to call this season by its Latin name, "Advent." The adoption of the word "Advent" by Orthodox is inspired by the same reason that prompted the adoption of other Latin theological terms, such as "Sacraments," "Incarnation," and "Trinity." Very simply, these are the recognizable theological terms that have passed on into many Western languages. They are also theologically accurate.

The Holy Days are such a beautiful time of the year in so many ways. It is certainly right that we take the time to clear a path in our lives for God to touch our lives and hearts with His love.

What are we to do, then, to prepare a place for the Lord? John the Baptist called people to reform their lives. It was a call to conversion, to turn away from sin and toward goodness, to set aside things that lead us from God and embrace things that will draw us ever closer to Him.

Because of its emphasis on repentance, Advent is a season of great seriousness, not a time proper for festivity, much less of partying and secular concerns. Advent is not a part of the Christmas holidays, and Christians of earlier times would be shocked at the current habit of treating this as a

(Continued on Page 51, Col. 1)

STILL TIMELY

On October 3, 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued a Thanksgiving Proclamation. In part it reads:

"No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with an anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be reverently, solemnly, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and voice, by the whole American people. I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea, and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of Thanksgiving and prayer to our beneficient Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidable engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union."

If we remove the word str civil before strife, the message is timely today as it was in 1863, except some of the words are no longer familiar. I checked a Noah Webster Dictionary for the year 1828 to clarify some of th

(Continued on Page 51, Cc

THE ORTHODOX HERALD
(USPS 600-140)
(ISSN 0744-1495)
Published monthly by
The Orthodox Herald, Inc.
P.O. Box 9
Hunlock Creek, PA 18621-0009
Periodical Postage Paid at
Hunlock Creek, PA 18621 and at
additional mailing offices
Founders and Editors: V. Rev. W. Basil
Stroyen, Ph.D., D.D. and Nina Bohush
Stroyen, R.N., D.D., D.Litt
Phone 570-256-7232
Annual Subscription: $8 a year
$12 for two years.
Packet Plan Rate on request
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Orthodox Herald
P.O. Box 9
Hunlock Creek, PA 18621-0009
Contributions are tax-deductible
Published continually since 1952

News CHRONOLOGY

NOVEMBER 2007

DIED: Fr. Michael Hutnyan, retired, in Hazleton, PA

THE 2007 ORTHODOX INSTITUTE for church school teachers and directors and anyone wanting to learn more about Orthodoxy will be held at Antiochian Village, near Ligonier, PA, from Nov. 1-4. For more info phone: 717/747-5221 or fax 717/747-5832 or E-mail AODCE@aol.com

ON THURSDAY, NOV. 8, a special celebration will be held for the Holy Day of the Synaxis of Archangel Michael and all the angels at the Shrine of Archangel Michael Taxiarchis in Tarpon Springs, FL.

THE ROYAL HOURS: CHRISTMAS, THEOPHANY AND PASCHA is now available from Holy Myrrhbearer's Monastery, 144 Bert Washburn Rd., Otego, NY 13825 for $15. This would be especially useful for individuals or those in mission parishes.

THE HEAVENLY FRAGRANCE OF MYRRH filled the air at Camp Nazareth on August 15 during vespers. A tear started to form in the eye of St. Anne in the icon which was present. Fr. Athanasy said that when heartfelt hymns are offered with sincere piety, the myrrh will often begin to flow from this holy icon.

SPECIAL NATIVITY CARDS are available from Troika Cards, PO Box 20001, York, PA 17402. Sale of the cards is used to benefit orphans in Russia or where needed. For info E-mail rogandel@yahoo.com

IF YOU HAVE USED GREETING CARDS, share them. Mother Katarina at Orthodox Monastery, 321 Monastery Lane, Ellwood City, PA 16117 recycles the cards and gives them a second life.

ROSH HASHANA – THE JEWISH NEW YEAR has come and gone but the Rapture or Second Coming has not come. There were many predictions that Jesus Christ would return to the earth before this day. The Orthodox Church follows what Jesus said in Acts 1:6,7: "They asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore the kingdom." "And he said unto them it is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power."

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW, composed by Russian Orthodox Bishop Hilarion Alfeev of Vienna and Austria, was performed in an auditorium beside the Vatican on March 29 and was televised by EWTN. "The Passion" was conducted by Vladimir Fedoseev and interpreted by the Petr Chajkovskij Grand Symphonic Orchestra and by the Trethakovskij Choir. Bishop Hirarion, 41, studied violin, piano and composition at the Moscow Gnessins School and the Moscow State Conservatory. He is the author of over 300 publications, including books in Russian, English, French, Italian, German and Finnish. He holds a doctorate in philosophy from Oxford as well as one in theology from St. Sergius Orthodox Theological Institute in Paris.

A CURIOUS FACT WAS RECENTLY REVEALED concerning Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Moscow. The first person during Soviet times to publically call for it to be rebuilt was Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, according to a statement by Col. Valentin Petrov. It seems that they visited Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Monastory in Zagorsk in 1964. Gagarin was impressed by the model of the destroyed Church of the Saviour. Petrov said:

Some time after our trip, Yuri Gagarin, speaking at the Central Committee plenary session on education of the youth, suggested openly that the Church of Christ the Saviour should be restored as a monument of military glory and an outstanding Orthodox work. At the same time, he proposed to restore the Triumphal Arch, which lay in ruins at that time. Gagarin's motive was very simple: patriotism cannot be promoted without the knowledge of one's roots. Since the Church of Christ the Saviour is a monument of military glory, those who go to defend their Motherland should know it.

Nobody at the meeting expected such a statement from the first cosmonaut. The response was incredible, a storm of applause. The presidium was seriously scared, of course, but certainly they could do nothing against Yury Gagarin.

PUBLISHERS ARE TURNING TO POP CULTURE and gimmicks to sell the Bible to spiritually hungry teens and young adults. For example, in one version The Street Bible Genesis reads: "First off, nothing. No light, no time, no substance, no matter. Second off, God starts it all up and WHAP! Stuff everywhere!"

IN DUBLIN the Russian Orthodox are holding services in a disused Anglican Church in the suburb of Harold's Cross. Over 1000 people attended the Christmas Day liturgy.

THERE ARE FROM 14-25 million Moslems in Russia. Of these, 1 million are estimated to live in Moscow, the most of any European city.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN can be purchased from St. Nectarios Press, 10300 Ashworth Ave., NO, Seattle, WA 98133-9410 or www.stnectarios press.com or call 1/800-643-4233; and Regina Orthodox Press, PO Box 5288, Salisbury, MA 01952 or www.reginaorthodoxpress.com or call 1/800-636-2470; and Light and Life Publishing, 4808 Park Glenn Glen Rd., Minneapolis, MN 55416 or www.light-n-life.com or call 952-952-3888 and ask for a catalogue.

(Continued from front page)

THE ENTRY INTO THE TEMPLE

of God and handiwork. She prayed a great deal, read the Holy Scriptures, and strictly observed the fasts. Mary lived at the Temple of God about eleven years and grew deeply devout, in everything was submissive to God, and was extraordinarily meek and industrious.

The Feast of the Entry into the Temple of the Most-Holy Virgin Mary, which we celebrate on November 21/December 4, is her leaving the world for angelic communion with and service of God in order to prepare herself for the feat of becoming the Mother of God for the sake of the world's salvation. How difficult it is to withdraw from worldly cares for even a little while and fill oneself with self-less feeling of gratitude to God and glorify Him.

This Holy Day serves as an example to us on the importance of visiting the House of God, for there we purify the temple for the Holy Spirit which abides in us. The Church is the House of God, a house of prayer, it is not only a school of piety and a place of healing, but also a place in which we meet God and Mary, the Mother of God, the celestial beings-angels and each other. Her love for God and mankind is especially keenly felt in church.

This day is considered a great holy day, which in the hymns of the church is called the harbinger of God's good-will toward man. Appropriately enough, starting with this day, we begin to sing "Christ is born..." during Matins.

(Continued from front page)

THERE IS A FAST

period of jolly good times and "Christmas cheer," complete with office parties, the trimming of Christmas trees and domestic adornments practically from the beginning of Philip's Fast, the exchange of gifts, caroling and even holding Christmas programs (yolkas).

All of these festive things are part of Christmas itself, which lasts the 12 days <u>after</u> the day from December 25/January 7 to January 6/17.

Impatient for Christmas? Prepare for it.

(Continued from front page)

STILL TIMELY

meanings. Sojourning means temporary residing; beneficient means doing good; ascription means the affirming to belong; perverseness means acting in opposition to what is proper; lamentable means sorrowful and interposition means coming between.

BLESSING THE FOOD

Who will bless the food at Thanksgiving in your home? Unless you are fortunate to have a priest available, who will bless the food? Every believer baptized into Christ has a share in His priesthood. Since we share in His Spirit through chrismation, we share in His priestly ministry.

If you are the layman honored to give the blessing, how shall you proceed? You can say the following: "O Christ God, bless the food and drink of your servants for You are holy always, now and ever, and forever. Amen." If you choose you may give an impromptu prayer. Holding your hand as you customarily do to make the sign of the cross, trace the sign over the food.

When the meal is completed, don't forget to thank God.

THEY ARE IMPORTANT

The question was asked: "Why does the Orthodox Church put so much emphasis on the Ecumenical Councils and the teachings of the Holy Fathers?

During the first three centuries, the Church fought heresies, religious opinions which were contrary to church dogma. The early Church used formulas of faith, many of which can be found in the New Testament. One baptism, the Bible, and the canonical Bishop of the city or of the vicinity, who taught "aright the word of God's truth," were considered as the three effective weapons by which the Church kept intact its teachings of the true faith of God. The redemptive Grace of God, His Word, and His Ambassadors were the fortresses of the Orthodox Faith.

At the beginning of the 4th century, when Constantine the Great declared tolerance and freedom of religion, heretics found ground to develop their ideas. Much as freedom of religion in America has produced hundreds of different religious groups. The Church had to gather all of its ambassadors (Holy Fathers) from every part of the Christian world to convene and pronounce the truths of the Faith. They followed the example of the Apostles, who convened the first "Synod" in Jerusalem. The Church, founded by our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of man, is the Treasury and interpretor of Divine Revelation, her only source of truth, which God in His mercy granted to her.

Fr. G.M.

(Continued from page 55)

KITCHEN CORNER

mixing bowl. Beat until well mixed. Carefully pour the filling over the partially baked crust. Put back in oven and bake for 18-20 minutes, until the filling is set.

Remove from oven and sprinkle with powdered sugar while still warm and then again when the bars have cooled.

* * * * * *

If you succeed in planting fear of God in the hearts of your children, then the caprice of human behavior will not be able to harm them.

Saint Ambrose

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP,
MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685

1. Title of Publication – **The Orthodox Herald**
2. Publication No. – **600-140**
3. Date of Filing – **October 1, 2007**
4. Frequency of Issue – **Monthly**
5. No. of Issues Published Annually – **12**
6. Annual Subscription Price – **$8.00**
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication – **8 Fairview Dr., Hunlock Creek, PA 18621-3333, Luzerne County**
8. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters or General Business Office of the Publisher – **P.O. Box 9, Hunlock Creek, PA 18621-3333**
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor
   Publisher – **The Orthodox Herald, Inc., P.O. Box 9, Hunlock Creek, PA 18621**
   Editor – **Nina Stroyen, P.O. Box 9, Hunlock Creek, PA 18621**
   Managing Editor – **Nina Stroyen, P.O. Box 9, Hunlock Creek, PA 18621**
10. Owner –
    Full Name – **The Orthodox Herald, Inc.**
    Complete Mailing Address – **P.O. Box 9, Hunlock Creek, PA 18621-3333**
11. Known bondholders, mortgagees, etc. – **None**
12. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes has not changed during preceding 12 months.
13. Publication Title – **The Orthodox Herald**
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below – **November 2007**
15. Average No. of Copies each issue during preceding 12 months.

a.	Total No. Copies *(Net press run)*	5500
b.1	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions	5475
b.2	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions	0
b.3	Paid Distribution Outside the Mails	0
b.4	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail	0
c.	Total Paid Distribution	5475
d.1	Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies	0
d.2	Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies	0
d.3	Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS	0
d.4	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail	0
e.	Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution *(Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4)*	0
f.	Total Distribution *(Sum of 15c and 15e)*	5475
g.	Copies Not Distributed	25
h.	Total *(Sum of 15f and g)*	5500
i.	Percent Paid *(15c divided by 15f times 100)*	99+

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

Nina Stroyen, Editor

SOBORNOST

The Question of Authority

According to the theology of *sobornost,* the infallibility of the councils is one which comes to them from the Church, *ex consensu ecclesia.* The history of councils proves that at times canonically convened councils have proved to be fallible, even *conciliabula* and *latrocinia.* And, in fact, even with the regularly conducted councils which have been accepted as "ecumenical," the *consensus episcoporum* was many times a myth, according to Afanassieff.

In actuality also, the authority of councils is not a canonical order, but of a charismatic order. As we have seen, there are no formal guarantees in doctrinal matters. No council is above the Church.

Congar, quoted by Florovsky, expresses it in these words:

> The first four Ecumenical Councils have acquired a normative priority in the life of the Church, because they were a **faithful and adequate expression of the perennial commitment of faith,** as once delivered to the Church. Again, as far as the authority of a council is concerned, the stress is not on canonicity, but on the Truth.

Father John Meyendorff tells us that the authority of the councils, then, depends upon their being the true voice not only of episcopal, but also ecclesial consensus, since the episcopal consensus is supposed to express the ecclesial consensus. If this does not happen, the council is rejected as a false one.

The final authority of a council, of course, depends upon the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is always free to speak in different ways and cannot be imprisoned, even by a council. Thus, so often synods refer to the Spirit at work, as He was at the Apostolic Council: "For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us..." (Acts 15:28).

Fr. Michael Dahulich, PhD
Dean of St. Tikhon Seminary
So. Canaan, PA 18459

WINTER'S GRACE

Experience in life comes with the passing of time. Spiritual advancement, on the other hand, does not come automatically with age. Therefore, rather than merely relying on a reserve of knowledge acquired in the past, loyal Christians strive to "increase in learning" (Proverbs 9:9).

When God spoke to Moses, Moses was "fourscore years old (80)." (Exodus 7:7). At this time, living to that age was considered unusual, for he wrote: The days of our years are threescore years (60) and ten (70), and if by reason of strength they be fourscore (80)..." (Psalm 90:10). Still Moses never felt that he was too old to learn. After many years of serving God, enjoying many privileges and carrying weighty responsibilities, Moses pleaded with the Lord "Shew me now thy way that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight." (Exodus 33:13)

The prophet Daniel, likely in his 90's, could still be found poring over the holy writings. What he discerned through the study of the books moved him to seek the Lord in fervent prayer. "I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, the prophet, that he would accomplish 70 years in the desolations of Jerusalem." (Daniel 9:2). That prayer was answered with inspired information regarding the coming of the Messiah and the future of pure worship. Seen Daniel (9:20-27)

Like Moses and Daniel, we can strive to keep our mind active by focusing on spiritual matters for as long as we are able. Many are doing just that, studying the Bible, the Lives of the saints or teachings of the Church in addition to doing their daily crossword puzzles.

Being advanced in age does not necessarily preclude the learning of new and different concepts.

PRESS FUND

Thank you so much for helping us to keep publishing.

Anonymous, Ethel Watlock, Anne Dorozynski, Helen Kennedy

*Dr. Victor Poletajev in memory of all our deceased armed force members. ETERNAL MEMORY! And for the health of their families.

*Eva Melnyk prayers in memory of her parents, Metro and Mary Behun.

*Carolyn Hermann in memory of her parents, John and Leona Hutchko.

*Edward Korolenko in memory of his daughter, Eva.

* * * * * *

Consider all people to be greater than yourself, though they may have many weaknesses. Don't act with hardness, but always think that each person has the same destination as we do. Through the grace of God I consider all people to be saintly and greater than myself.

Elder Amphilochios

Memories

The memory that I am writing about concerns an old friend of mine, Zenaida Susko. We met as young girls in our church in Scranton, PA many years ago. Zena was a few years older than I, but that didn't matter. We enjoyed seeing each other in church on Sundays and at church gatherings. We sang in the choir, led by her father, Deacon Michael Susko. Along with her mother, Matushka Sue (Soroka) we sang in the alto section.

Zena read in church in both English and Slavonic and she spent many hours learning and memorizing the Divine Liturgy in both languages. She knew all aspects of the church services. Her parents taught her well. She had a good and strong voice and it was a joy to hear her reading. She helped her dad by reading the Hours and Epistle every Sunday. If there was a need, she also lit candles and helped with the basket collection. But most of all, we remember her for her friendliness. She was friendly to everyone she met, would remember them the next time she saw them, and if she sensed that they were troubled, she would tell them that she would pray for them. She loved music and would dance in the hall on festive occasions. "Zenotcka" and I would have good times together, which now live in my memory. She sang, danced, and recited for many people and groups. My little friend was quite well-known and very popular in our church and around the area.

Later on in life, I married and moved away. Every year on my wedding anniversary, she would write me a note. Zena never forgot me. I still have all those notes and treasure them.

Her mother died in 1972 and her father a few years later. She went to live with her godmother, Zenovia (Soroka) Pecuch. After some time, they moved to Florida and Zenaida died there on September 10, 2004. I miss her, as she was a true friend and special person.

My friend, Zena, was mentally challenged. She was born with Down's Syndrome, but you would never know it when you heard her read in church and speak about the divine services or anything else for that matter. She loved God and she loved her Orthodox faith. She defied all the odds against her. She was unique in many ways and truly remarkable.

Occasionally, I would hear her say: "God will protect me." I am sure she must have been in some kind of pain. It is a lesson I learned from her. To this day, I am comforted by those words when something is troubling me or I find myself in a "tight spot" or when I ache. I remember Zena saying "God will protect me" and I find that He does protect me just as Zena trusted He would. Her dad was quoted in an article about Zena in the FROC Journal that: "Throughout the years, she has taught me more than all the books in the world."

She was buried in a Scranton cemetery alongside her parents. Zenotchka was a wonderful person who spent a great amount of time in church, and I believe God has a special place for my little friend. Memory Eternal!

Alma Canfield

Please send your MEMORIES to Margaret Pysarchyk, 2125 Garfield St., Lorain OH 44055 or email her at mypysarchyk@hotmail.com

FUNDS

ALASKA: Ethel Watlock
MISSION AND ALASKA: Edward Korolenko, Carolyn Hermann
POSTAGE: Edward Korolenko, Nicholas Znak, Carolyn Hermann

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, Have mercy upon me a sinner!

GOD IS ABSENT

When asked, many people say God is absent from their everyday life. There are many episodes on TV showing characters dying or having a near-death experience. They sometimes communicate with those who have previously died, and yet there is no mention of God at all.

This myth about God not being present in our life, or even in death, is very common in our society. Often excused in terms of political correctness, God is purposely left out of everything – school, work, sports, etc. Even in a show such as Seventh Heaven, where one of the main characters is a Christian pastor, God is rarely acknowledged.

Scripture tells us that God is involved in everything in our lives, even to the point of knowing how many hairs we have on our heads. (Luke 12:7) Especially for those who are committed to a Christian way of life, God is an integral part of all we do and every decision we make. We promised this in our baptism. "Those who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ," (Gal 3:27) is sung at our baptism. It means that we have put on His entire way of life. This includes praying to God "unceasingly" (I Thess 5:17), and using spiritual weapons like bringing every one of our thoughts before God. (2 Cor 10:5)

* * * * * *

Slander is false accusation tending to injure the reputation of another. The slanderer is called a devil and is a devil, because just as the Devil falsely slandered God to the first-formed people (Adam and Eve) and deceived them, so also the envious person, the slanderer, falsely accuses his brothers and persuades many to believe him. The slanderer harms himself, the one who is slandered and those listening as well... All those who are slandered, however, and have patience, and welcome and forgive the slanderers, are worthy of blessing.

Father Philotheos Zervakos

IN THANKSGIVING

Author Unknown

I have a list of folks I know,
All written in a book
And at celebration time
I go and take a look.
And that is when I realize
These names are all a part,
Not of the book they're written in,
But in my very heart.

For each name stands for someone
Who has crossed my path sometime,
And in that meeting they've become
Etched in the mind sublime.
And while it sounds fantastic
For me to make the claim,
I really feel I am composed
Of each remembered name__

And while you may not be aware
Of any special link,
Just meeting you has shaped my life
Much more than you think.
For once you've met somebody,
The years cannot erase
The memories of a pleasant word
Or of a friendly face.

For when I send a greeting
That's addressed to you,
It's because you're on the list
Of folks I'm indebted to.
For I am but a total of the
Many folks I've met,
And you are one of those
I prefer not to forget.

And whether I have known you
for many days or few,
In some way you have had a part
In shaping things I do.
And whenever a remembrance
comes,
I realize anew,
The greatest gift that life can give
Is meeting folks like you.

As hoary time erases youth,
Each memory becomes more Dear,
And the meaning of harmonious
hearts
Entwines in recollections clear.
My wish is God's choicest Blessing,
That forever and ever endures,
Consecrate with grace and love the
heart of you and yours.

HALLELUJAH/ALLELUIA

WHICHEVER WAY WE SPELL IT, this is a Hebrew word meaning "Praise the Lord!" It is used as an acclamation or shout of joy in the Liturgy. A whole group of Psalms which have Hallelujah as a regular refrain, the Hallel Psalms 111-118, were actually composed for the Passover.

The word passed naturally into use in the Christian Church. Have you noticed how often it is sung in the Divine Liturgy? Alleluia "Praise the Lord!!" When the entrance is made with the Gospel we sing: "O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, O of God, Who did rise from the dead. Save us who sing unto thee: ALLELUIA."

Very soon after the reading of the Epistle and just before the reading of the gospel, the priest bids us: "Peace ..." We respond with ALLELUIA. This response is one of spiritual joy as we greet the risen Christ, Who comes to us in His Word - the Gospel.

During the Great Entrance, when the gifts are being carried from the Table of Oblation to the Altar, we sing: "That we may raise on high the King of all, Who comes invisibly upborne by the Angelic Hosts. ALLELUIA. ALLELUIA."

"Praise the Lord!" "For these precious Gifts now offered..."

Following Communion, we thank Christ and promise Him: "May our lips be filled with Your praise, O Lord, so that we may sing of Your glory, for you have deemed us worthy to partake of Your Holy, Divine, Immortal and Life-giving Mysteries: keep us in Your Holiness, that all the day long we may meditate upon Thy righteousness. ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!"

* * * * * *

An oath is not needed by a good man nor will it prevent the bad man from perjuring himself.

Undique (from everywhere)

There are 365 "fear nots" in the Bible, or one for each day of the year.

Legend has it, that in the Pilgrim's second grim winter their daily ration of food consisted of five kernels of corn per person. Many New Englanders place five kernels of corn on their Thanksgiving tables to remind them of the hardships the Pilgrims endured.

Recent trends towards health and fitness have been a boon for Orthodox who are fasting. Foods which were once full of lard or other animal fats are now prepared with vegetable oils. Emphasis on labeling because of consumer awareness has resulted in excellent labeling standards, making it possible to know exactly what is in the food we are buying. The available of tofu and "soya bean meat" in regular supermarkets, something unheard of thirty years ago, makes fasting easier. And then there are the vegans making it possible to buy meatless meals in restaurants.

When we have repented and been cleansed by repentance and confession, let us draw near with fear, faith and love to our pure God and become worthy heirs of His eternal and unending life and kingdom. Let no one who is unrepentant, like Judas, dare to approach the mystical table so that he may not be burnt up and handed over to the eternal fire. (Elder Philotheos)

The level of education of Orthodox laity is rising. With it the expectations which laity hold of their clergy will be higher. They are more acquainted with non-Orthodox religions than ever (and less critical of them), not only due to the high interfaith marriage rate but also due to high levels of international travel.

Early in the history of the Church, the custom developed of serving the Eucharist over the tombs containing the bodies of martyrs for the faith. Now, relics of martyrs are inserted into the altar when it is blessed by a bishop for the celebration of the divine Mysteries.

Editor's Notes

Recently, I was going through my file of Thanksgiving recipes. I paused at one and remembered who I had received it from and how I had changed it, which the notes in the margins attested to, and decided this year to go back to the original recipe to the "basics" for in changing it little by little, it was no longer the recipe my friend shared with me so many years ago.

From all information available, I think that the same thing is happening with the financial situation in the central church. Focus is being lost and has now reached the point where the situation has become so antagonistic that the ability to discuss the problem effectively has been jeopardized. We must go back to the basic problem and deal with it in a Christian manner. How else will we leave a legacy for future generations?

We have had a beautiful colorful fall season here in the Northeast. The leaves were especially bright. People are using various methods to predict what type of winter we will have this year. But whatever we get, someone will be unhappy. The skiers complain if we don't get enough snow, the ice fishermen complain if it doesn't get cold enough, others complain if it gets too cold because the price of fuel is too high, and too much snow makes traveling difficult and then there is the snow shoveling! Isn't that the case with so much of life?

I attended my second conference on Ecumenism at Antioch Village. It was attended in great part by people new to the Orthodox faith. It was interesting discussing the presentations with the other three people who also attended the conference with me. How "pushy" should one be to present the Orthodox faith? Perhaps, more consideration should be given to a statement by a person who recently accepted the faith: "What impressed me about the Orthodox that I met was their confidence that 'God was with them.' They didn't pounce on me to convince me to join them, yet they were willing to answer my questions and welcomed me wholeheartedly. It's because of these quiet Orthodox who waited until I asked, or until they saw some interest on my part, that I'm an Orthodox today."

This Thanksgiving let us pray:

O Thou who has given us so much,
Mercifully grant us one thing more,
A Grateful Heart.

Matushka Nina

GALILEE: WHERE'S THAT

In our study of the Scriptures, we often find mention of Galilee. Why is it mentioned so often? It is the most northerly of the three districts into which Palestine was divided at the time of Jesus. It was about sixty miles long and thirty miles wide. With its varied scenery of sea, forests, mountains, rivers, lakes and fertile pastureland, even today it is an attractive part of the Holy Land.

It produced a healthy and hardworking race and it was from this hardy stock that Christ was born and later chose His first disciples. The Gospels are full of references to the Galilean towns of Nazareth, Capernaum, Cana and Nain, from whose scenery and life He drew the examples that illustrated His teaching.

In St. Matthew's Gospel particularly, Galilee is seen as the ideal land of renewal where Christ, surrounded by the poor in spirit, teaches them about the Kingdom of God.

* * * * * *

Pray like a child, in simplicity of heart, concerning all your needs and sorrows, and entrust yourself to God's will, for the Lord arranges our salvation.

Saint Nikon



Compotes are one of the favorite desserts served in Eastern Europe. When visiting relatives, we usually bring them a bag of "abrecos" apricots. The way ours are dried now leaves them large, soft and juicy. This compote recipe, however, is made with canned apricots. It would make a nice addition to your Thanksgiving meal. Leave the pumpkin pie for later. Try either the compote for dessert or the tangy lemon bars. Both can be made the day before.

APRICOT COMPOTE

2 cups (1/2 lb.) canned apricots
2 Tbls. brown sugar
juice & grated rind of 1/2 lemon
1/2 cup cookie crumbs (macaroon or sugar)

Arrange layers of fruit in a deep baking dish, sprinkling each layer with brown sugar, lemon juice and rind. Pour the reserved juice from the can(s) on top carefully, sprinkle with crumbs. Bake in 350° oven for 35 minutes. Serve warm or cold, preferably with whipped or heavy cream.

LEMON BARS

Crust
1 cup flour 1/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup butter, softened
Filling
3/4 cup sugar
2 eggs
3 Tbls. flour
3 Tbls lemon juice
1 teas grated lemon rind
1/4 teas baking powder
Topping
Powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine the crust ingredients and beat until mixture is crumbly. Press into the bottom of an ungreased 8-inch square baking pan. Bake for 15-20 minutes until the edges are lightly browned.

While the crust is baking, combine all of the filling ingredients in a small

(Continued on Page 51, Col. 3)

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VETERANS DAY

Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Memorial Day observed in May is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.

While those who have died are also remembered on Veterans Day, Veterans Day is the day set aside to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military – in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who have served – not only those who have died – have sacrificed and done their duty.

Veterans Day is celebrated on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month to commemorate the signing of the armistice that ended World War I on Nov. 11, 1918. It was proclaimed as a day of remembrance by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919 and it became a federal holiday in 1938. The name was changed from Armistice Day to Veterans Day by Congress in 1954 to honor all veterans of all wars.

* * * * * *

Love, endure, overlook, do not get angry, do not become irritated, forgive one another, in order that you resemble our Christ and are counted worthy to be near Him in His kingdom. Elder Ephraim

Home Bible Reading Schedule

NOVEMBER 2007

1. Luke 11:47-12:1
2. Luke 12:2-12
3. Luke 9:1-6
4. **Luke 8:41-56**
5. Luke 12:13-15; 22-31
6. Luke 12:42-48
7. Luke 12:48-59
8. Luke 13:1-9
9. Luke 13:31-35
10. Luke 9:37-43
11. **Luke 10:25-37**
12. Luke 14:12-15
13. Luke 14:25-35
14. Luke 15:1-10
15. Luke 16:1-9
16. Luke 16:15-18, 17:1-4
17. Luke 9:57-62
18. **Luke 12:16-21**
19. Luke 17:20-25
20. Luke 17:26-30
21. Luke 18:15-17,26-30
22. Luke 18:31-34
23. Luke 19:12-28
24. Luke 10:19-21
25. **Luke 13:10-17**
26. Luke 19:37-44
27. Luke 19:45-48
28. Luke 20:1-8
29. Luke 20:9-18
30. Luke 20:19-26

BIBLE STUDY

As I was typing up the Home Bible Reading Schedule, I was intrigued by the reading for November 27. It was only 3 verses long. I wondered what teaching could possibly be found in these few verses. After reading the verses, I discovered that these few verses are a treasure house of teaching.

The verses concern the cleansing of the temple by Jesus. This is the second time that He has done this. We can read about the first incident in John 2:13-17. This second incident is found in Luke 19:45-48, Matthew 21:1,12,13 and Mark 11:15-17.

It appears that Jesus was disturbed by what He saw in the temple on the same day He made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Our reading tells us that "He taught daily..." The reading gives us a brief account of how He spent His time during Holy Week from Palm Sunday until Good Friday. He was in the temple during the day and He left the city at night spending the hours in prayer. We know from our readings that He spent the first night in Bethany (Mark 11:11) and the following nights were spent on the Mount of Olives (Luke 21:31).

He very clearly states the role of the church. "My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves." The church as a House of Prayer. How quaint these words may seem to many. This is the main reason for the church – prayer.

LIGHTER MOMENT

Torrential rainstorms had knocked down power lines all over the county, and the electric company was dispatching repairmen left and right. One lineman called a customer to ask her exact address, he was told: "I'm at Post Office Box 99."

The weary repairman replied: "Madam, I'll be coming your way in a truck, not in an envelope."

LIGHTER MOMENT

My therapist told me the way to achieve inner peace is to finish what I start. So far, I've finished two bags of chips and a pint of ice cream. I feel better already.